

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Between

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

And

THE ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT MARKETING ASSISTANCE SPECIALISTS

PURPOSE

In support of Public Law (P.L.) 106-50 and Title VII, the "Veterans Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development Act of 1999," the Parties hereby agree to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to provide procurement technical assistance and support to veteran business, including service-disabled veteran businesses.

BACKGROUND

The mission of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is to serve America's veterans and their families with dignity and compassion and to be their principal advocate in ensuring that they receive the care, support and recognition earned while in service to the Nation.

The Association of Government Marketing Assistance Specialists (AGMAS) is an organization comprised primarily of Procurement Technical Assistance Programs funded by the Department of Defense (DoD), other Government-funded assistance programs, as well as non-funded procurement assistance programs. The purpose of these programs is to assist businesses in doing business with the DoD, other Federal agencies, State and local governments.

The mission of the AGMAS is to establish and maintain a national forum to conduct training and provide for the exchange of information and ideas among all operators of Government marketing assistance programs and other related programs, for the purpose of inter-state and intra-state communication, program development and professional enhancement. The AGMAS's mission is to represent the interests of its members and to promote procurement technical assistance to business owners interested in doing business with Federal, State and local agencies. The primary goal of the members is to increase competition for Government contracts and thereby expand the Government's industrial base.

Since Congress has mandated the Federal Government to do more to assist veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces, particularly service-disabled veterans, it behooves VA and the AGMAS to form a partnership whereby technical business assistance can be provided to veteran businesses.

With assistance from VA and AGMAS (together the Parties), these veterans can play a greater role in the American economy by creating new and expanded small businesses, thereby realizing the American dream that they fought to protect.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The AGMAS and VA will promote the services provided under this MOU.

AGMAS will:

- Provide training and counseling to veterans concerning how to do business with the Federal Government. Assistance will include, but not be limited to: Government marketing, bid and proposal preparation, Government codes, pre-award surveys, post-award administration, sub-contracting, socio-economic programs, Federal Acquisition Regulations, and Electronic Commerce.
- Acquire, preserve and disseminate data and other information regarding Government procurement policies and practices.
- Request of the membership on an annual basis, a list of all veteran and service-disabled veteran-owned businesses to be submitted in hard copy or electronically to VA for inclusion in a master database, for identifying veteran-owned small businesses.

VA will:

- Make VA facilities available, where possible, in which the Procurement and Technical Assistance Centers (PTACs) training can be conducted.
- Refer veteran and service-disabled veteran businesses to the PTACs.
- Make available to the PTACs lists of Government and prime contractor veteran advocates.

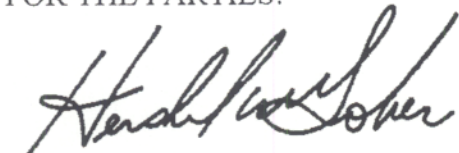
TERMS AND TERMINATION

This MOU will take effect on the day of execution and will remain in effect through March 31, 2002. The MOU may be extended in two-year increments by written agreement of the Parties.


The Parties agree to consult each other regarding any amendments or issues to be addressed. The Parties may modify this MOU by written mutual consent.

The signatories of this MOU represent that they have the authority to make such commitments on behalf of their respective organizations

FOR THE PARTIES:


Acting Secretary of Veterans Affairs

NOV 21 2000
(Date)


President, AGMAS

Nov. 28, 2000
(Date)